

Dear USFWS Director Thorson:

American Bottom Conservancy is a not-for-profit conservation organization working to protect and promote the people, resources and communities of the Mississippi River floodplain of Southern Illinois. We support Alternative D to ensure that there will be adequate water quality and habitat for fish, wildlife and high-quality recreational opportunities for future generations. The river is the lifeblood for many communities—both human and wildlife. It is a treasured resource. It belongs to all. Many communities get their drinking water and food from the river. The economies of some communities are tied to the river. The lives of many wildlife communities depend on the river. They cannot vote. We must plan to allow people and nature to live in harmony within the river's ecosystem. We must allow people and nature to co-exist. Recreational interests should not trump nature, nor should other human uses of the river. Please choose Alternative D as it is currently presented.

Sincerely,

Kathy Andria
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